

WANTED

BY THE FBI

Failure to Surrender (Mortgage Fraud)

RONNIE EDWARD DUKE



Photograph taken
in 2013



Photograph taken in
2010

Aliases: Ronald Duke, Ronnie Dukes, Ronald Edward Duke, Ronnie Duke, Ronnie E. Duke

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: May 19, 1967;
May 16, 1967

Place of Birth: Michigan

Height: 5'11"

Weight: Approximately 250 pounds

NCIC: W147593155

Occupation: Real estate until 2007

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Sex: Male

Race: White

Nationality: American

Remarks: Duke used to own a business called Hardcore Racing in Fenton, Michigan. Also, he used to actively participate in drag racing and hot-rod competitions and frequent those racing tracks. Duke is also known to abuse alcohol.

DETAILS

Fugitive Ronnie Edward Duke was sentenced on April 8, 2013, to 13 years in prison for operating a massive mortgage fraud scheme from 2003 to 2007. By holding positions as mortgage brokers, appraisers, real estate agents, and fictitious title agents, Duke and his co-conspirators recruited over 100 straw buyers to complete over 450 mortgage purchases, which resulted in \$94 million in losses to 61 financial institutions. The 450 mortgage purchases were actually only on 180 parcels of real estate. This was accomplished when Duke and his co-conspirators placed multiple "ghost loans" on a single residential property without the other lenders' knowledge. The loans ranged in size from roughly \$350,000 to \$600,000. The "ghost loans" were nothing but sham transactions, purporting to be secured by the residential properties. The warranty deeds and mortgages associated with the "ghost loans" were not recorded and the lenders were completely unsecured.

The investigation resulted in 16 convictions. Duke, the leader of the conspiracy, received the longest sentence at 13 years. Duke was ordered to self-report to prison in West Virginia on June 3, 2013, but never reported. A federal bench warrant was issued by the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, for his arrest on June 5, 2013. He was also indicted by the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, on November 26, 2013, on charges of failure to surrender.

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading directly to the location and arrest of Ronnie Edward Duke.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.